

Disorders of the extremities are also dealt with, peripheral vascular disease receiving the greatest attention. Phantom limb and causalgia have also been treated by interrupting the sympathetic fibres to the limb but in these conditions results have not been consistently satisfactory, a fact observed by most workers and attributed to the large psychological element in this type of pain. This book, which has the sub-title *Minor Sympathetic Surgery*, is most stimulating to read, it is well documented with most complete lists of references to current literature but the printing and illustrations are not of the usual excellence which characterizes publications from the United States.

R.M.T.

A TEXTBOOK OF MIDWIFERY

By R. W. JOHNSTONE, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.C.O.G. A. and C. Black. 1948. 13th Edition. Pp. 570. Price 30s.

This edition has been thoroughly revised, but retains the essential and excellent qualities of its predecessors. The text is plainly readable; and the illustrations, particularly the coloured plates, are uniformly good. The following criticisms are directed entirely to matters of detail, perhaps of opinion.

In the section on analgesia pethidine and trilete are not mentioned, and even more surprisingly there is no reference to nitrous oxide. Few will endorse the recommendation of 'twilight sleep,' and this section certainly does not reflect southern opinion and practice.

In the description of manual rotation of a persistent occipito-posterior there is no mention of the fact that it is often possible to rotate the head without pushing it up above the brim, and if rotation is to be attempted with the forceps then Kielland's instrument should surely be discussed.

Plugging is recommended for both postpartum and accidental haemorrhage. There is danger in such teaching in a student's textbook, for if plugging is generally used the increased risk of sepsis will outweigh any advantage in the control of bleeding. The reviewer would not accept the opinion that external version is not possible if the foetal legs are extended.

As a whole the book is orthodox, full of sound advice clearly presented, and nowhere better than in the section on contracted pelvis, where a simple classification evades the difficulties in which Caldwell and Moloy's terminology has involved the student reader. The present revision has included much of the recent work of Barcroft, Sheehan, Barclay and others. This textbook can be recommended with confidence to any student.

S.G.C.

AIDS TO GYNAECOLOGICAL NURSING

By HILDA M. GRATION, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N. Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1948. 4th Edition. Pp. 96. Price 5s.

This is an excellent book containing far more

than its small size would suggest. Not only is it entirely suitable for its primary purpose as 'a complete textbook for the nurse,' but it would be useful to those doctors who have to lecture to nurses, as lecturers are so often in doubt about the proper material to include in a short course of lectures.

S.G.C.

CHILDREN'S EYE NURSING

By JAMES HAMILTON DOGGART, M.A., M.D. (Cantab), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) Henry Kimpton. 1948. Pp. 144. Price 8s. 6d.

Few will dispute that the nurse's gentleness, and her understanding of the subject contribute very directly to the results of ophthalmic surgery. Those who are born with gentle fingers will profit from the knowledge gained by reading this little book.

Of course it is difficult to give an elementary account of a subject which is obscured by a vocabulary of its own, and much of which can only be approached with the aid of special instruments. In this connection, it is good to hear Mr. Doggart encouraging the nurse to make her work more intelligible and interesting by learning how to use the ophthalmoscope.

The book is easy to read and there is little to criticize in the subject matter which, while it follows accepted teaching, is enriched by much practical realistic advice.

R.P.C.

THE NATURE OF DISEASE INSTITUTE

First Annual Report, by J. E. R. McDONAGH, F.R.C.S. William Heinemann, Medical Books, Ltd. London. 1948. Pp. 174. Price 21s. net.

Sir William Osler once said that knowledge is the oil that is squeezed out when one mind rubs another. Very few, if any, important advances in knowledge have been made by entirely solitary workers. Mr. McDonagh has endeavoured to join this select band. This report of his research makes many statements unsupported by any authority other than himself. Mr. McDonagh has some original ideas that might possibly prove of value, but he fails to convince the reviewer that he has established a single new fact. He considers that 'food of inferior quality is the most important cause of disease' and goes on to say that this is 'a fact which has been established beyond doubt by medical investigators throughout the world.' This esoteric work is full of diagrams which are clear only to the initiated. If Mr. McDonagh wants to make more converts to his theories he must explain just what these diagrams are intended to show. He will not get them by being vindictive—'the other journals closed their columns to me because the unitary theory of disease is not acceptable to the medical hierarchy; because this kind of work is not considered research by the Research Councils . . .'

B.L.